

Staying and Defending

ARE YOU BUSHFIRE READY?

areyouready.wa.gov.au

ACTIVELY DEFENDING YOUR HOME

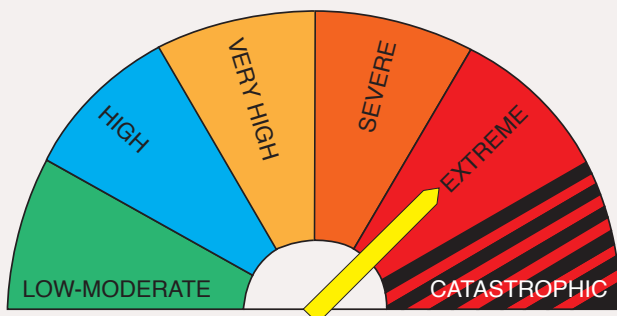
Conditions in a bushfire can be unbearably hot and smoky. **Defending your property will take significant physical and mental effort for many hours before, during and after the fire.**

Before you consider defending your home from a bushfire you need a plan, the right equipment and protective clothing for all your family or household members who will stay to defend, who will stay to defend, and a property prepared to the highest level.

THERE ARE SITUATIONS WHERE YOU SHOULD NOT STAY AND DEFEND:

1. When the Fire Danger Rating is catastrophic, extreme or severe.

FIRE DANGER RATING TODAY



2. If your property is not well prepared.
3. If you are not mentally prepared and physically fit.

Stick to your plan – If you have any doubt about your plan or ability to defend your safest option is to **LEAVE EARLY**.

Deciding to stay and defend:

- Do you have** a bushfire survival plan? Does this include a plan to defend your property?
- Do you know** your triggers for putting your plan into action?
- Is your property** well prepared and maintained?
- Are you** mentally and physically prepared?
- Do you have** the appropriate personal protective clothing and equipment?
- Do you have** a back-up water supply of 20,000 litres and a power supply (such as a generator). Remember mains water and power supplies can fail during bushfires.
- Do you have** an emergency kit with food and water to last you three days?
- What will you do** if a fire truck doesn't come to help you?
- Do you know** what to do if your plan fails? Have you thought of a back-up plan?

LEAVING EARLY is your safest option – Being involved in a bushfire can have a long lasting psychological and emotional impact. Think about your long term wellbeing.



You must stay up to date by staying aware of your environment, checking the DFES website, calling the DFES emergency information line or listening to local radio.

For more information visit www.dfes.wa.gov.au or contact **DFES Community Engagement** 9395 9816



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services



PREPARE ACT SURVIVE

1

AS THE FIRE FRONT APPROACHES

- You must put your bushfire survival plan into action.
- Put on protective clothing.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Bring your pets inside.
- Bring outdoor furniture, mats and any other loose items that may burn inside.
- Wet down the side of the house and surrounding garden area that is facing the fire. If you have power and water, leave reticulation running.
- Block downpipes and fill gutters with water.
- Regularly patrol for spot fires around your home and put them out with your rake or knapsack spray.
- Turn off the mains gas supply to the house and any gas cylinders.
- Turn off your evaporative air conditioner but leave water running through the system if possible.
- Fill basins, sinks, baths, troughs, buckets and your wheelie bin with water.
- Soak towels and rugs in water, and lay them along the inside of external doorways.
- Soak blankets and keep them handy for protection against radiant heat.
- Place a ladder and torch close to the manhole so you can regularly check the ceiling space for embers.
- Keep electricity on but be aware of electrical safety at all times.

2

AS THE FIRE FRONT APPROACHES AND DURING THE FIRE

- Take all hoses, hose fittings (including plastic tap attachments) and equipment inside.
- Move into the house when you see flames or if it is too hot and smoky to stay outside.
- You must frequently check the roof cavity (through the manhole inside the house) for any spot fires.
- Stay inside the house in a room with an exit to the outside such as a window, while the fire front passes. This can take between five and fifteen minutes. Check for any spot fires inside the house.
- Drink plenty of water to avoid becoming dehydrated.
- Tune into your local ABC AM Radio station for fire information.

3

AFTER THE FIRE FRONT HAS PASSED

- Ensure everyone continues to wear protective clothing.
- Patrol and check for embers or signs of smoke in places such as the roof cavity, under house spaces and around verandahs, wooden decking, stairs, window sills and doorways. Also check sheds, carports and fences.
- Call family and friends and check on neighbours if you can.
- Watch for fallen power lines, falling trees and branches.
- Stay clear of items that may be burning, such as sheds, vehicles and plastics, as smoke can be toxic, and explosions may occur.

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